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UNCLAS BRASILIA 000303

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: BRAZIL: STATEMENTS ON TERRORISM AT CARTAGENA  
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 18519

1.(SBU) Upon receipt of reftel late on afternoon of 1 February, PolCouns provided ref points to the Andean Division of the Ministry of External Relations (MRE). PolCouns followed up early on 2 February with the division's acting deputy for Colombia and Peru, Lincoln Bernardes. Bernardes indicated he had reviewed the points and would provide them to Brazil's ambassador in Bogota, who is representing the GOB at the Cartagena conference.

2. (SBU) Bernardes did not offer a view on ref points, but said it was his understanding that a working draft of a conference statement remains under discussion among delegations in Cartagena, and he anticipated that the Colombians would press for language on terrorism in the final document. At the same time, Bernardes (who serves in the political section in Brazil's embassy in Bogota and is on TDY at his ministry) opined that the GOC may well prefer a statement that is not seen as specifically provocative toward Venezuela, in light of ongoing GOC and GOV efforts to ramp down bilateral tensions stemming from the recent rendition to Colombia from Venezuela of a FARC official.

Danilovich